



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/628,168	07/28/2000	Jong-Chul Choi	Q60267	2947

7590 03/13/2002

Sughrue Mion Zinn Macpeak & Seas PLLC  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue N W  
Washington, DC 20037-3202

EXAMINER

ALPHONSE, FRITZ

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2675

DATE MAILED: 03/13/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/628,168

Applicant(s)  
Choi

Examiner  
Fritz Alphonse

Art Unit  
2675



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jul 28, 2000
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 3 20) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2675

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Watanabe (U.S. Pat. No. 5,597,223).

As to claim 1, Watanabe (figs. 6, 12) show a device for enhancing contrast for a liquid crystal display (LCD) projection system, the device comprising: an image driver (107) supplying an image signal; a LCD panel (108) for converting the input image signal into an optical image signal and a contrast control portion (i.e., controller 120) positioned on the same optical axis as that of the LCD panel (108), for controlling an amount of scanned light according to the brightness of a corresponding image (col. 11, line 44 through col. 12, line 18; col. 16, lines 43-65).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary

Art Unit: 2675

skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Tokui (U.S. Pat. No. 5,231,456).

As to claim 2, Watanabe does not explicitly disclose an auto brightness limiter (ABL) function for automatically controlling an average brightness of the image signal supplied on said LCD panel.

However, in the same field of endeavor, Tokui discloses an automatic brightness limiter circuit which automatically adjusts brightness or contrast of a picture of a display apparatus in which a large multi-screen is constituted by a plurality of display units such as projection TVS.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watanabe by specifically providing an ABL circuitry, as disclosed by Tokui. Doing so, it becomes possible for Watanabe to adjust the brightness and /or the contrast of the display apparatus so as to provide uniform brightness over the entire projection screen.

As to claim 3, the claim differs from claim 2 only in that the limitation "a contrast control plate for controlling an amount of light scanned from said LCD panel" is added. However, Watanabe (fig. 6A) shows the aperture stop 111 (i.e., contrast control plate) for controlling an amount of light scanned from the LCD panel (108).

As to claims 4-5, the claims have substantially the limitations of claims 1-2. Therefore, they are analyzed as previously discussed in claims 2-3 above.

Art Unit: 2675

As to claim 6, Watanabe (fig. 9) discloses a contrast enhancing device, wherein the contrast control plate controls the degree of the opening and closing cells constituting the LCD according to the contrast control signal applied from said contrast controller.

As to claims 7-8, the claims have substantially the limitations of claims 2-3. Therefore, they are analyzed as previously discussed in claims 2-3 above.

### *Conclusion*

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Chen (U.S. Pat. No. 5,303,054) discloses a line electron beam source for projection LCD system.

Shikama et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,634,794) discloses a light-source device and projection-type display device.

Cobben et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,889,614) discloses a presentation system with overhead projector.

Knox et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,234,152) discloses a contrast polymer dispersed liquid crystal projection display system.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fritz Alphonse whose telephone number is (703) 308-8534.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve Saras, can be reached at (703) 305-9720.

Art Unit: 2675

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

**(703) 872-9314 ( for Technology Center 2600 only )**


Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington.  
VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding  
should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number  
is (703) 306-0377.

  
F. Alphonse

Art Unit: 2675

March 7, 2002

  
CHANH NGUYEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER